Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I second it.

The motion that the Bill be taken up and passed at the subsequent Friday's meeting was put to vote and carried.

Amendments to Standing Orders 5 and 65.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I rise to submit the Select Committee's Report on the draft amendment to Standing Order No. 65 and No. 5.

One amendment has been accepted by the Committee, and the other has been thrown out. The amendment which has been accepted is one relating to S. O. 65. The last sentence of the Select Committee's Report is very important, and, therefore, I may be permitted to read it. "The number twenty fixed in the present Standing Order appears to have been copied from the Travancore Standing Orders without any regard to the numerical strength of the two Councils. The amendment should, therefore, be accepted".

This is not the only one instance in which our Government have committed mistakes in carelessly copying the Council Regulation, Rules and Standing Orders.

President.—Everybody is liable to commit mistakes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—And it is for us to expose it, when our Government commit mistakes.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Now, we got an opportunity to bring before the Government this point.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—If we go through the Rules of the Legislative Council, we will find so many mistakes which should be remedied by the Government. When we send up resolutions recommending any alteration in the Rules, the Government, without considering whether they are proper or not, disallow them, without even hearing whether we have got arguments in favour of accepting the alterations. Our Standing Orders and Rules are copied from Travancore, but Travancore copied them from British India, and British India in their turn copied them from the British Parliament. In the British Parliament there are about 620 members, and there only forty members have to stand up. In the Madras Council the number of members that should stand up is 20, and when the Travancore Government copied the provisions there, they accepted the number 20. Note the Travancore Council consists of 50 members. Without considering the numerical strength of our Council, our Government copied the number 20 from Travancore. This applies not only to the Standing Orders but also to the Rules. In the Rule relating to the adjournment motion, we find the same number 20 fixed upon.

President.—This is all irrelevant.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I am only bringing it to the attention of the Government, so that the Government might alter the present Rule, according to the number now accepted by the Select Committee.

President.—The Government is not here.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Then, why are we here? The Government is here that is why I am here. If the Government is not here, why should we sit here?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—On a point of order, sir. Is not the President the representative of the Government here? There must be somebody to represent the Government here. The Government block is here.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—But has any notice been given, so far as this Standing Order is concerned?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The argument advanced for changing the number in the Standing Order under consideration is applicable to the Rule referred to. We have stated the reasons. I am bringing them to the notice of the Government so that the Government might take action in this matter. The Committee has accepted the amendment unanimously, and it is for the Government to see that the same alteration is made in the Rules also.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I second it.

President.—Is the procedure applicable to this?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—There is no opposition. I move that this Report of the Committee may be taken up for consideration.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Under S. O. 37 it should be taken into consideration.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I move that this Report be taken up for consideration.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I second it.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

Mr. K. T. Mathew—I move that this may be taken up tomorrow and passed.

President.—What was carried just now is the motion. Now, I shall put the amendment to the vote. The amendment is to substitute the words "not less than 15" for "more than 20" in S. O. 65.

The amendment was put to votes and carried.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I have not finished. I move that this may be taken up to-morrow and passed.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I second it.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The next is the amendment to Standing Order No. 5, which has been rejected by the Committee.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—He can withdraw it with the permission of the Council.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I do not want to press the amendment and take up the time of the Council and to create any inconvenience to our Secretary to the Council.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I shall not be inconvenienced.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—One of the arguments that has been put forward by the Committee against the amendment is that, if this is accepted, it will create some difficulties to the Council Secretary, and that is why I said I do not want to create any difficulty to our Secretary. But I may say that a question regarding this matter was put in the Pudukkotta Legislative Council, and the Government there in answer to that question replied that they would place on the Council table whatever proceedings the Government pass on the resolutions accepted by the Legislative Council. But somehow or other I was not able to attend the Select Committee meeting. It was convened in the interval, and the Report was circulated. This is not a convenient time for us to attend Committee meetings, and in future, the Committee Meetings should be held at other times. Now, with the permission of the Council, I withdraw the amendment.

The motion to withdraw was put to vote and carried.

Srimati T. Madhavi Amma's Usurious Loans Bill.

Srimati T. Madhavi Amma.—Sir, I beg to move that the Usurious Loans Bill be read in Council.

Mr. K. Sankaran Nambudiri.—Sir, I second it.

Srimati T. Madhavi Amma.—From the statement of objects and reasons, the House will see that this Usurious Loans Bill is not an original measure drafted by me. It is based on the Usurious Loans Act of 1918. To the Hon'ble Members who must have had some experience of life, the necessity for the Bill will be obvious. Money-lending is an old institution, and usury has always been an inevitable result of it. Moral philosophers have always condemned the taking of interest on money lent, at any rate, beyond a reasonable rate. The great Prophet Mahomed has even gone so far as to strictly prohibit the taking of any interest on money lent. The Genucian Law had also prohibited it. In ancient Germany, interest on loans

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly